AFTERSHOCK™
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Bonvillain
TAMRA BONVILLAIN • RACHEL DEERING

STRAYER

3

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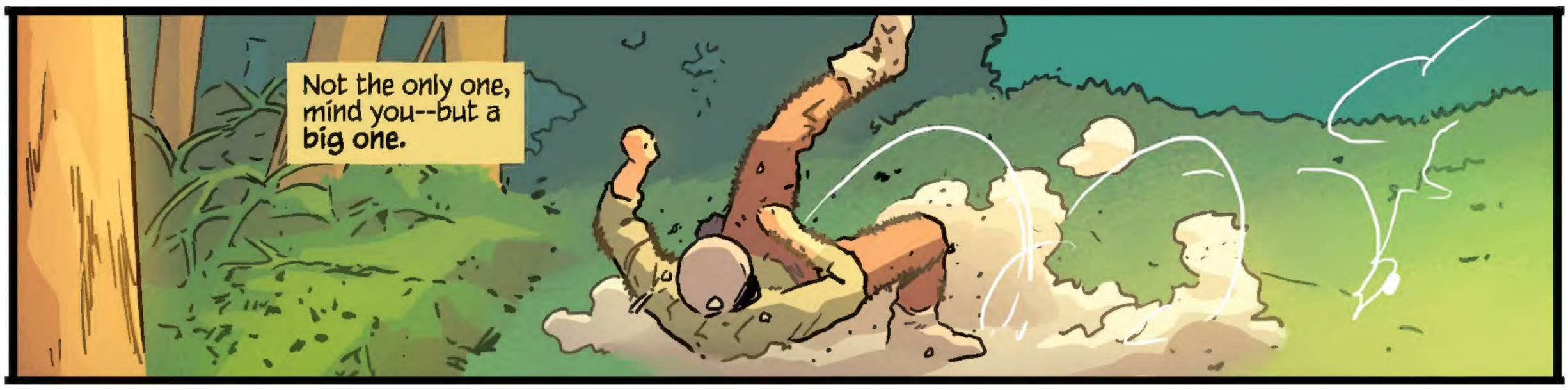
So, the other problem with Kashas?


Not the only one, mind you--but a **big one.**

It isn't how **large** they are.

It isn't the fangs or the claws or the damn **extra arms.**

It's the **bloodlust.**

And that's quite literally true. **Our** blood, **human blood.** The scent of it.

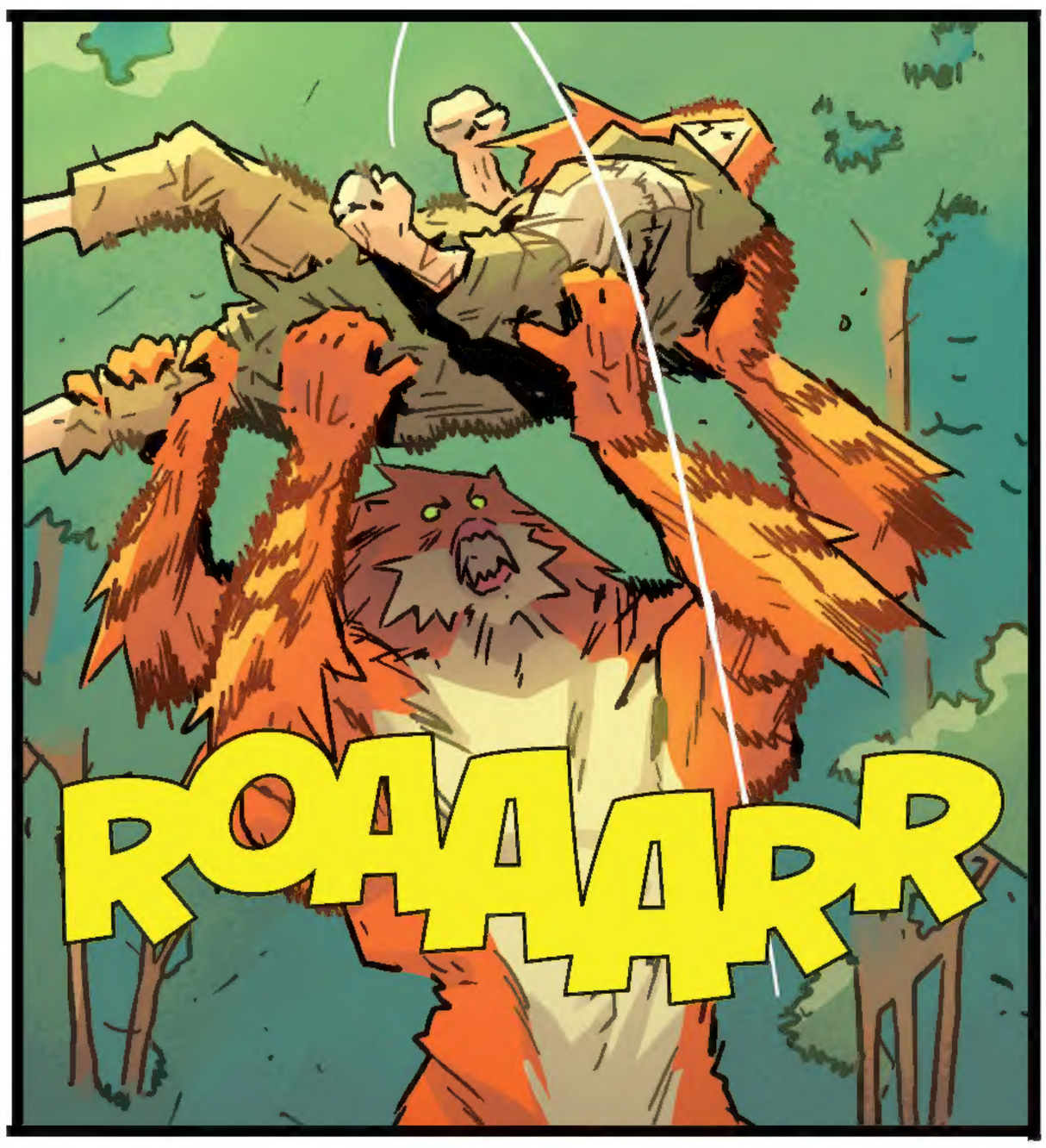
No.

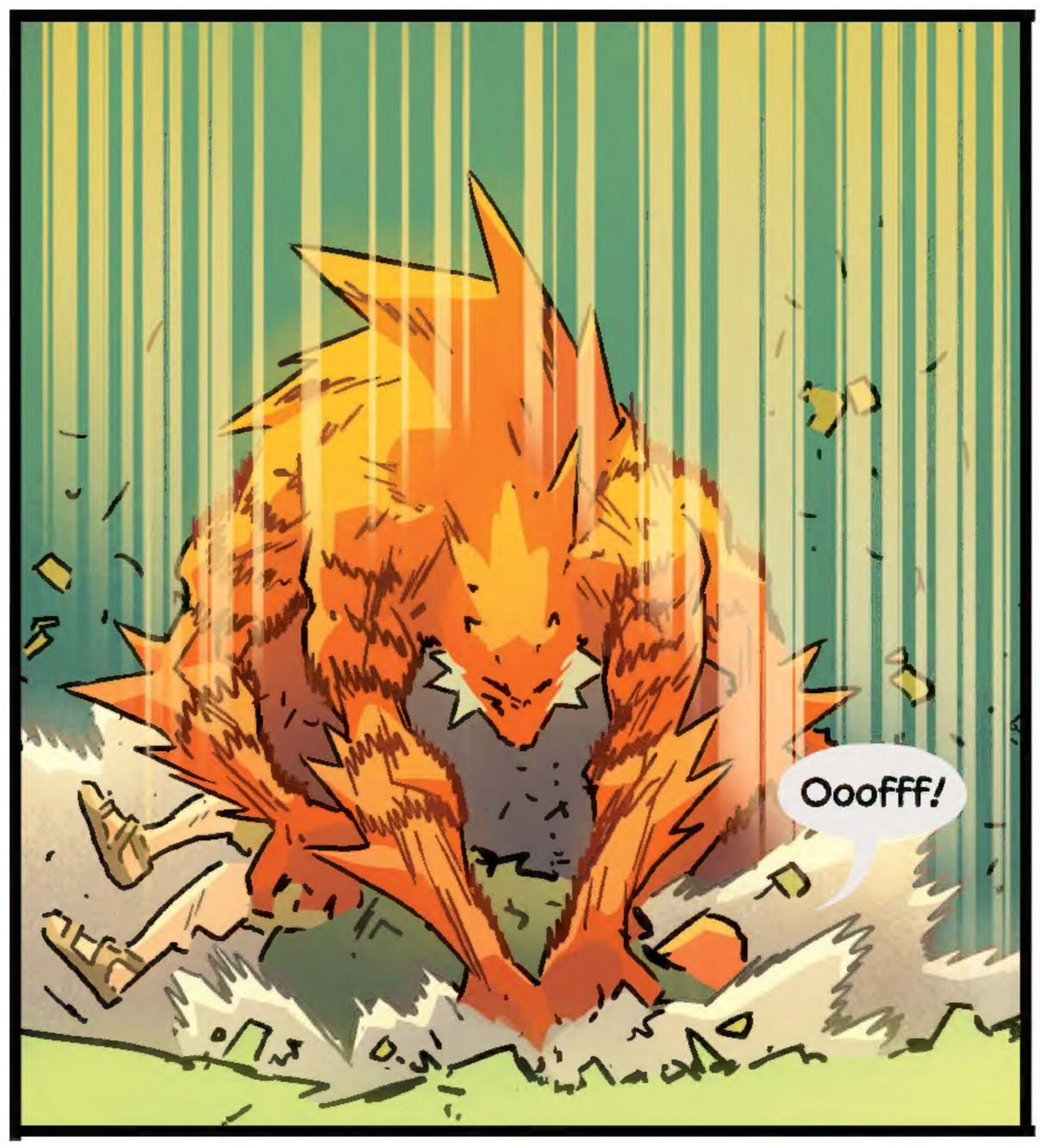
They're **addicts.**

AGGGH!

Nope, no more meals today.

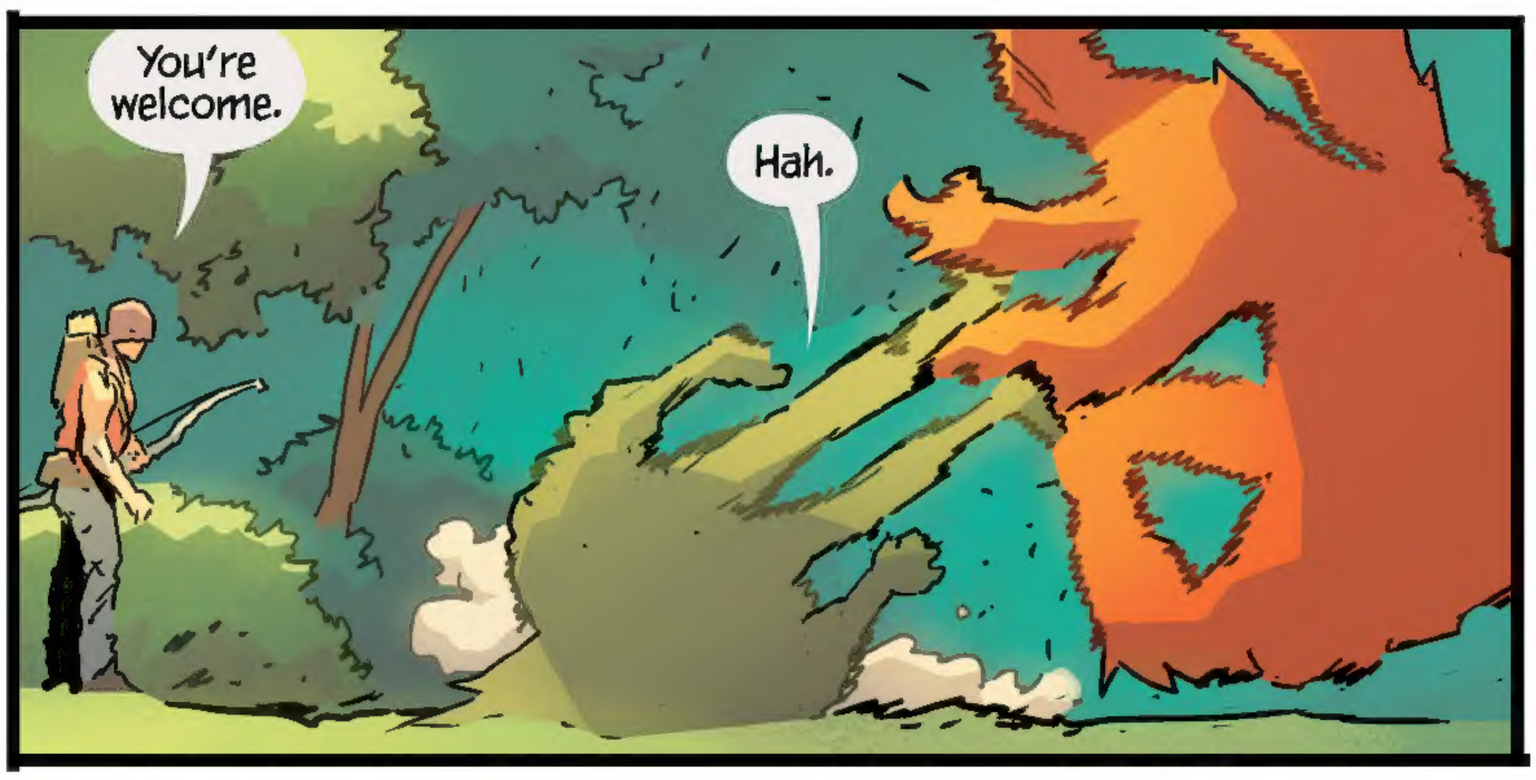
Arrrgh, bastard.


ROAAARR


Ooofff!

A little help?

THUNK


You're welcome.
Hah.

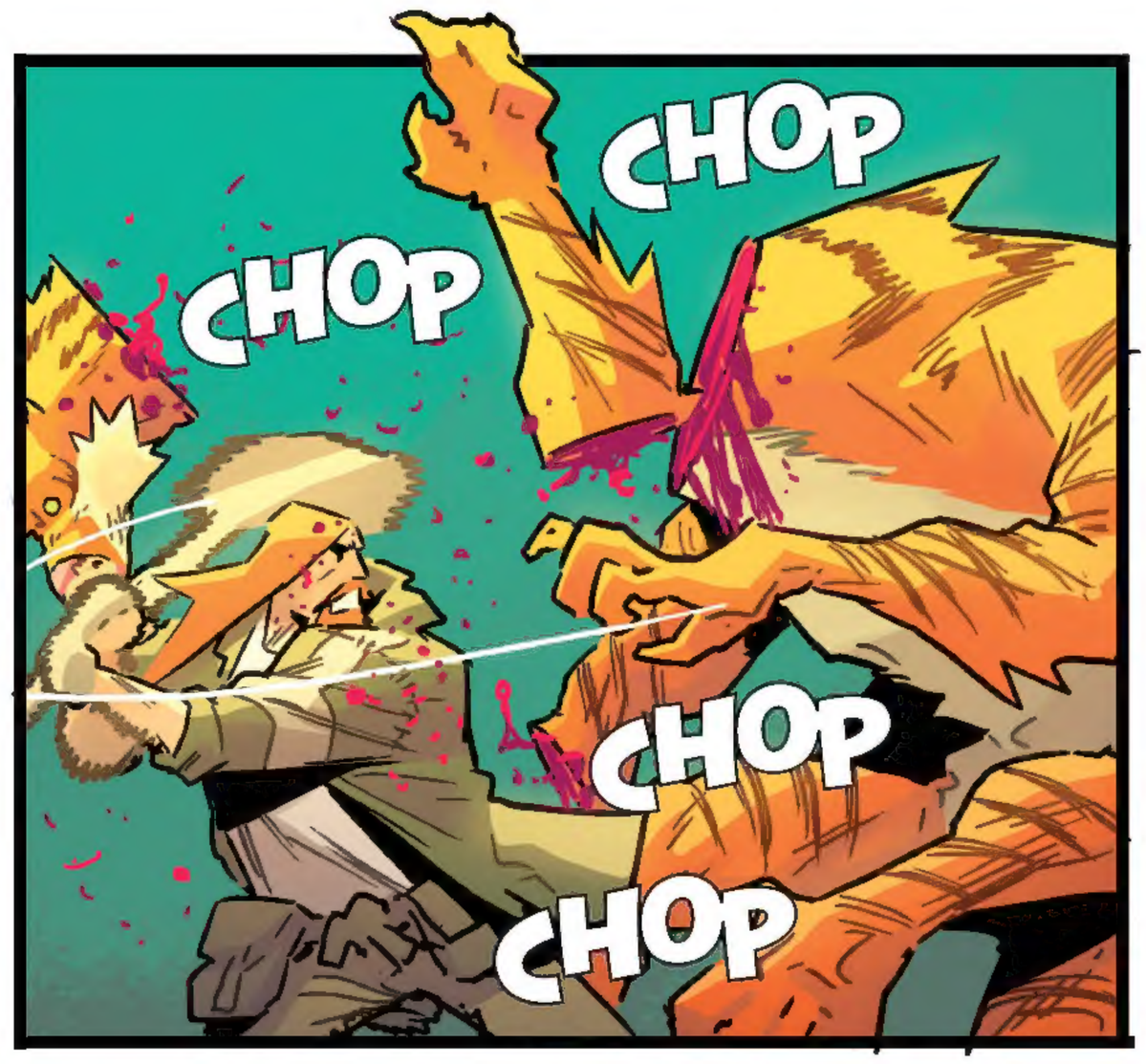
Don't move.
You've got bigger problems than me.
Than us.

I suppose we'll see.

Damn it.

Stay--

--DEAD!


CHOP
CHOP
CHOP
CHOP

Of course. **Now** you're helping. Terrific.

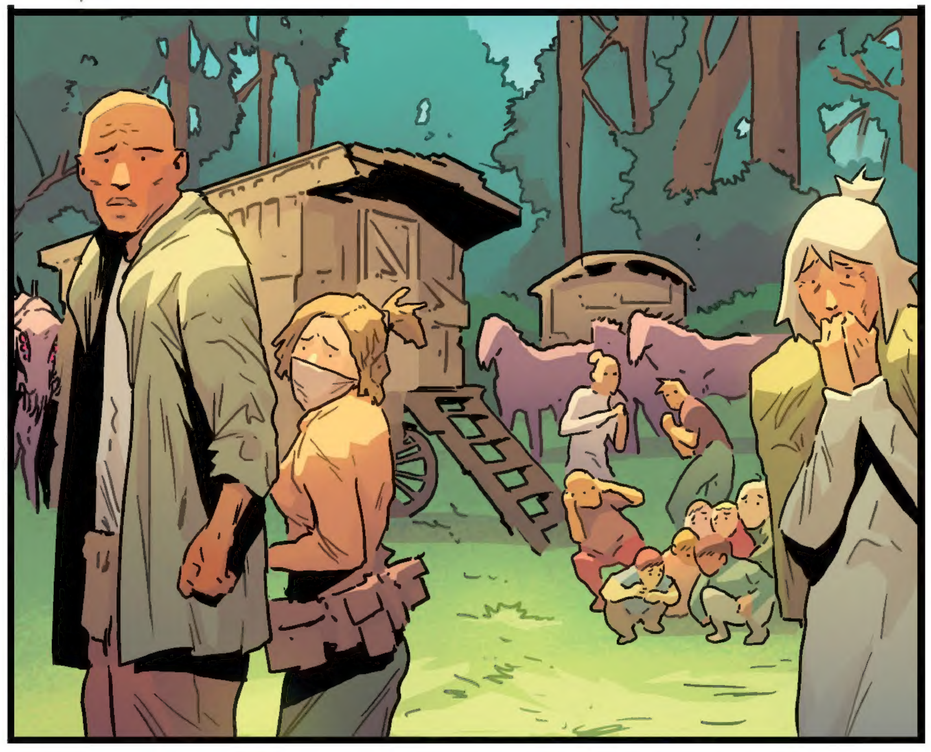
Strayer-- what are you **doing?**
I was going to find you and run away. Since you're here, just running away.

We need the caravan, we--
You've never **seen** a Kasha before-- have you, Mala? Not in the flesh?
I don't see how that's rel--

It's relevant because you'd know what the **problem** with Kashas was.
And what is that?
That's the problem with Kashas...

"...there's never just one."

With any luck, the bloodlust from killing these people will make them **ignore** us.



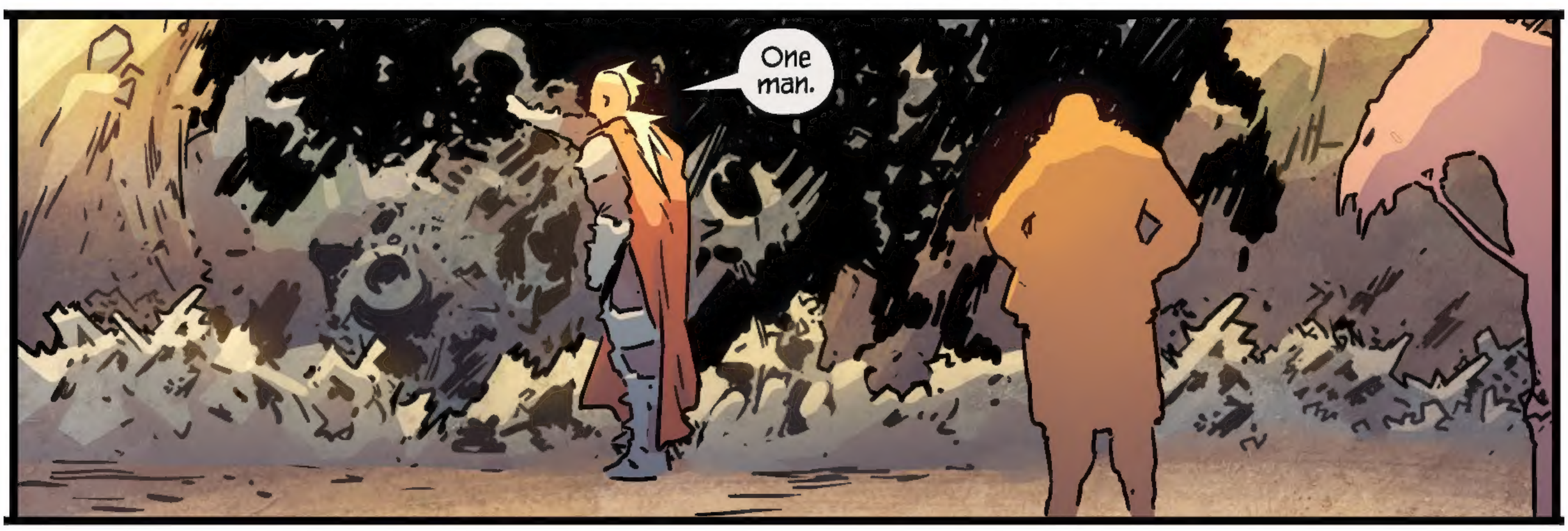
That wasn't a request. We stay, we die.
No.

We stay. They live.

I-I can explain...
Can you? I'd be interested in hearing that.
We're disassembling it to get the damned thing out of the way.
So then this is a **clean-up**? Your civic spirit at work?
Yes.
Ah.

How did you kill this, then? The usual result of "Town vs. Titan" is not the **Titan losing.**

We didn't. Some **maniac** did that.
Does this maniac have a **name?**
Strayer.

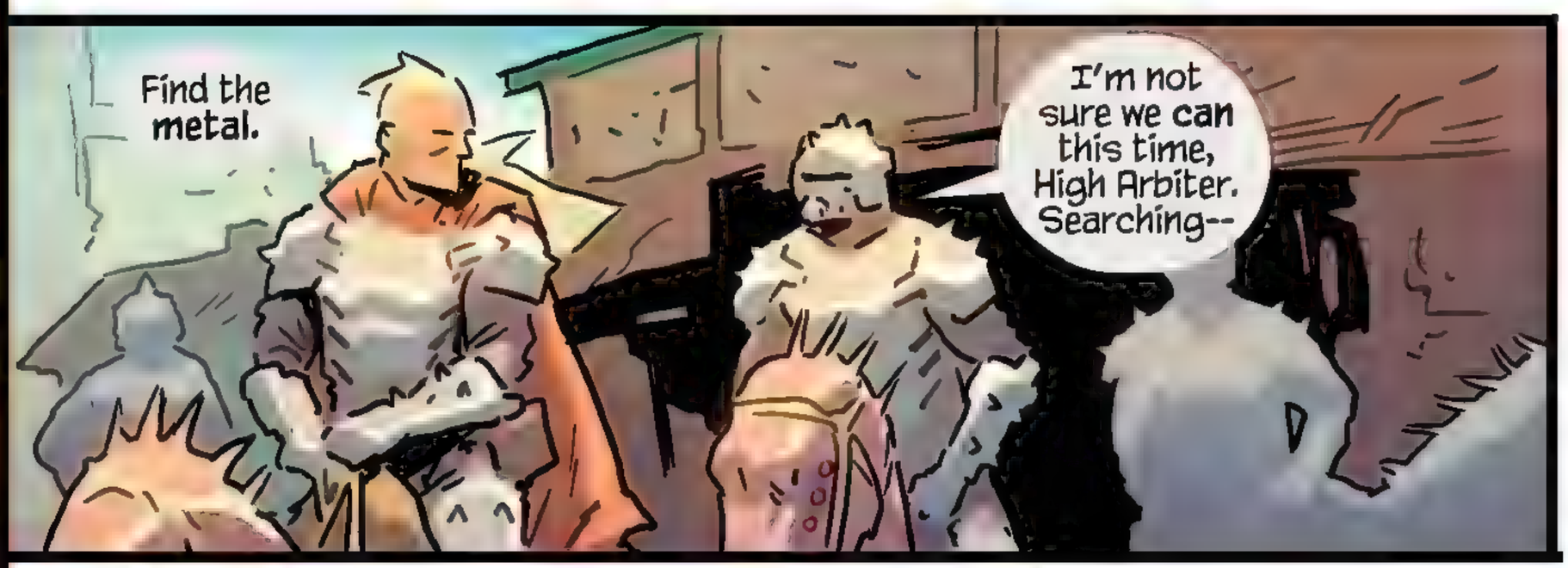

One man.

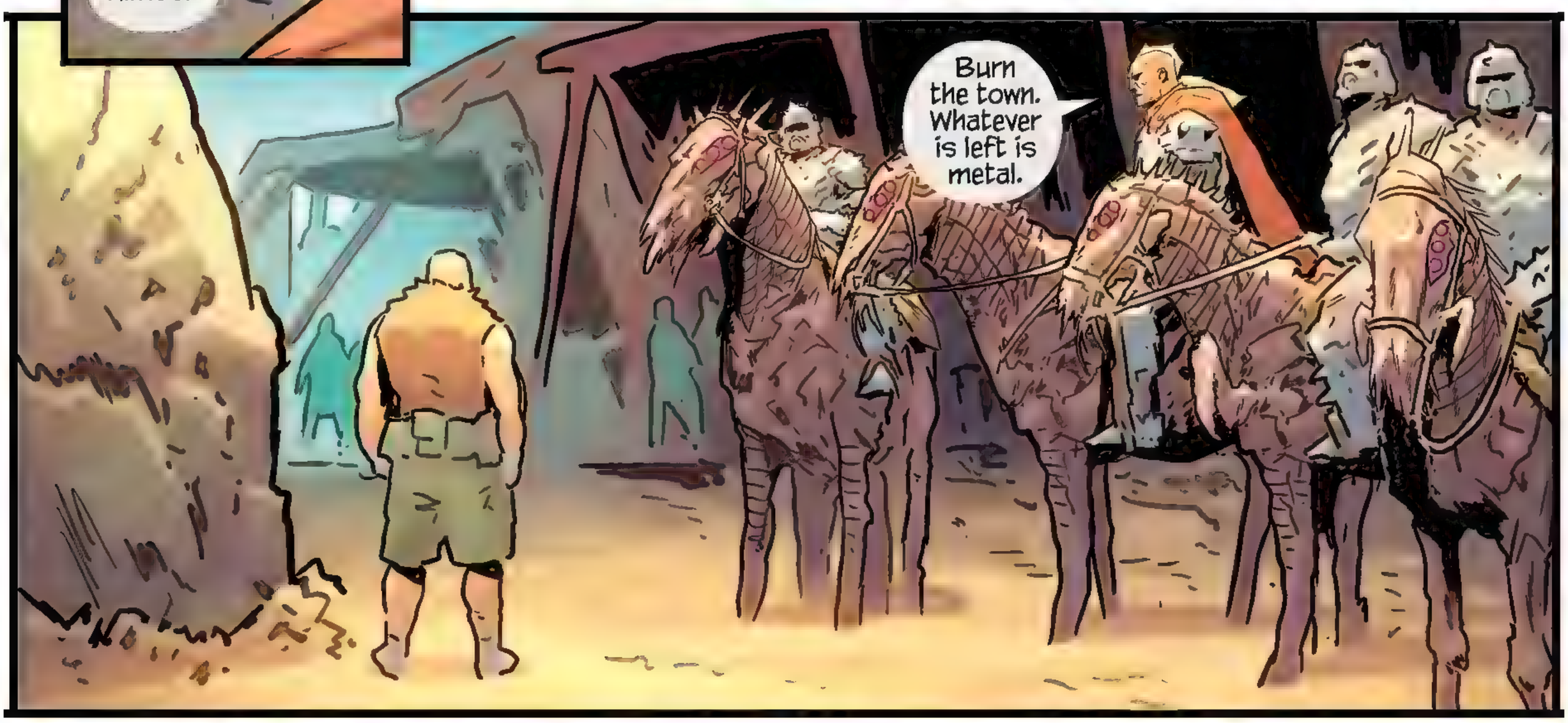
And a girl...but to be honest, I can't say that she was much help, near as I could tell.

This girl?

Yeah, that's her.
And their current location?
I've no idea. This is the **Edgelands.** Every idiot running from...well, you...passes through.
My job is to make sure they don't wreck the town. What they do after is **not** my problem.
I suppose not.
I see.
Are we done here?

Almost.


Find the metal.
I'm not sure we can this time, High Arbiter. Searching--

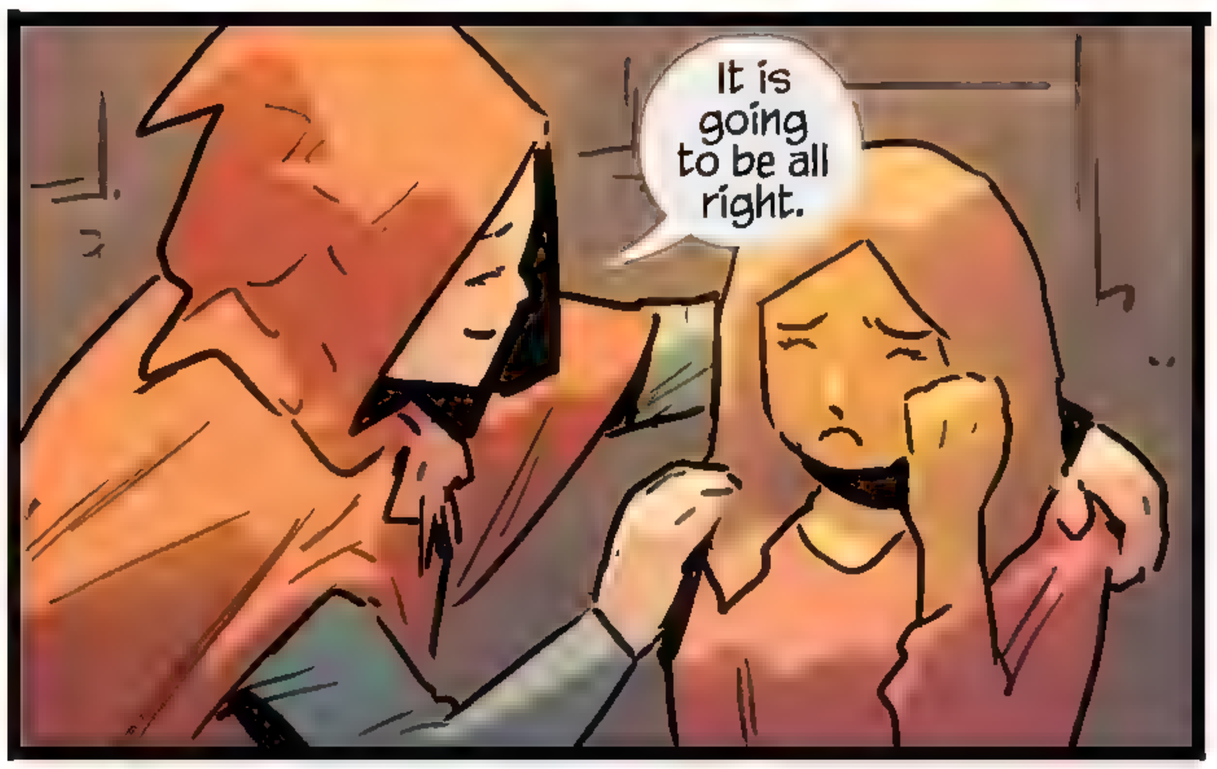

Burn the town. Whatever is left is metal.

You can't! You--
Arrest him for metal theft.

You bastard!
Yes.

Get them into position! Anyone with a weapon fights! The rest of you--
Arrow men on top. Keep them as far away as you can.

Try to die quietly, I guess.
You're very inspirational, you know that?


It is going to be all right.

Is it going to be all right?
Hard to say. I'm leaning towards **no.** I don't suppose you have any **anti-Kasha mojo?**

We shall see.

I have no power here.

Terrific. Running is our best option, then. But since you seem **determined** to get killed for no particular reason and I can't leave, well...

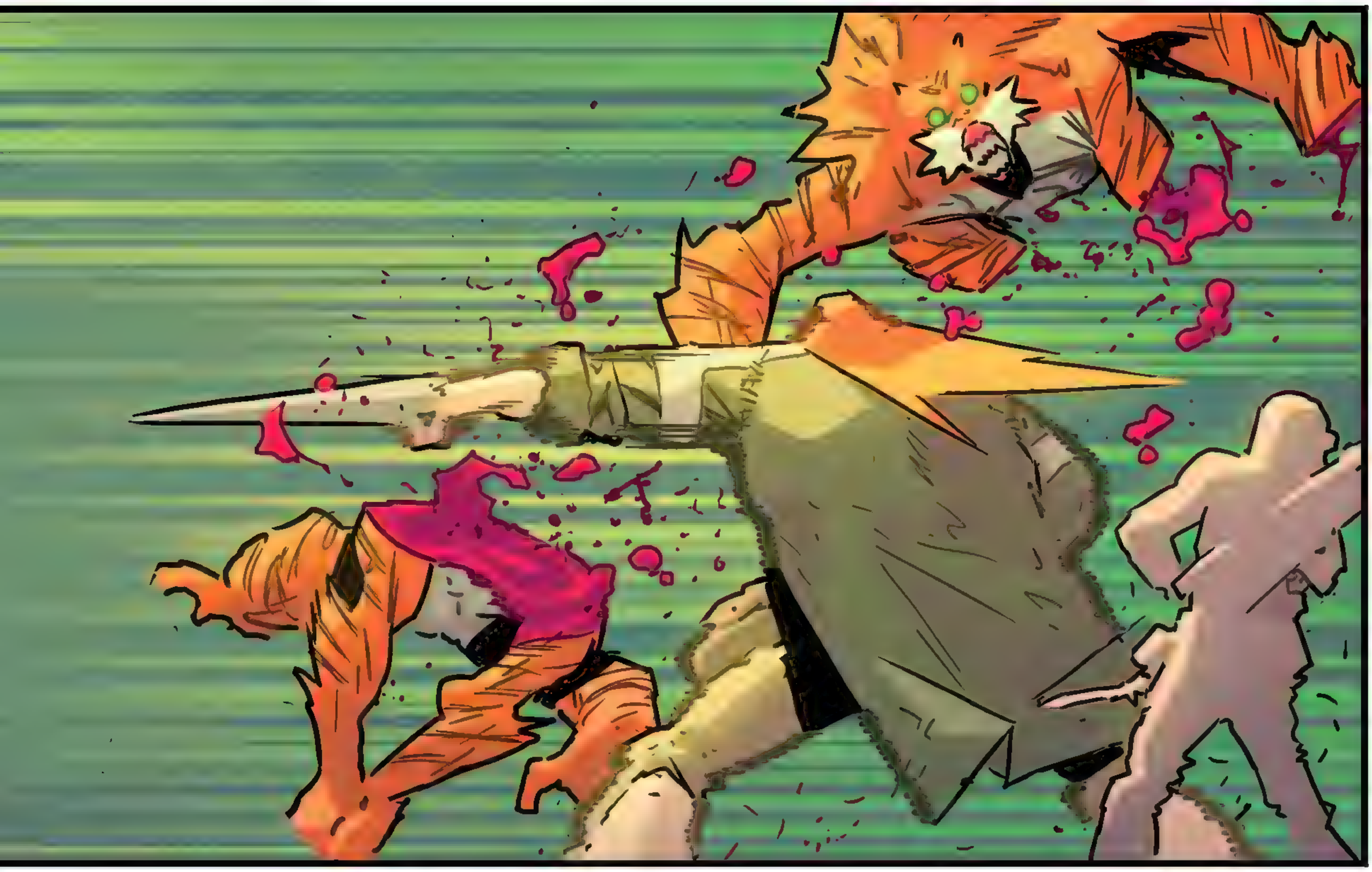
Are we ready?
Are you **mad?**
Ha haha haha! NO!

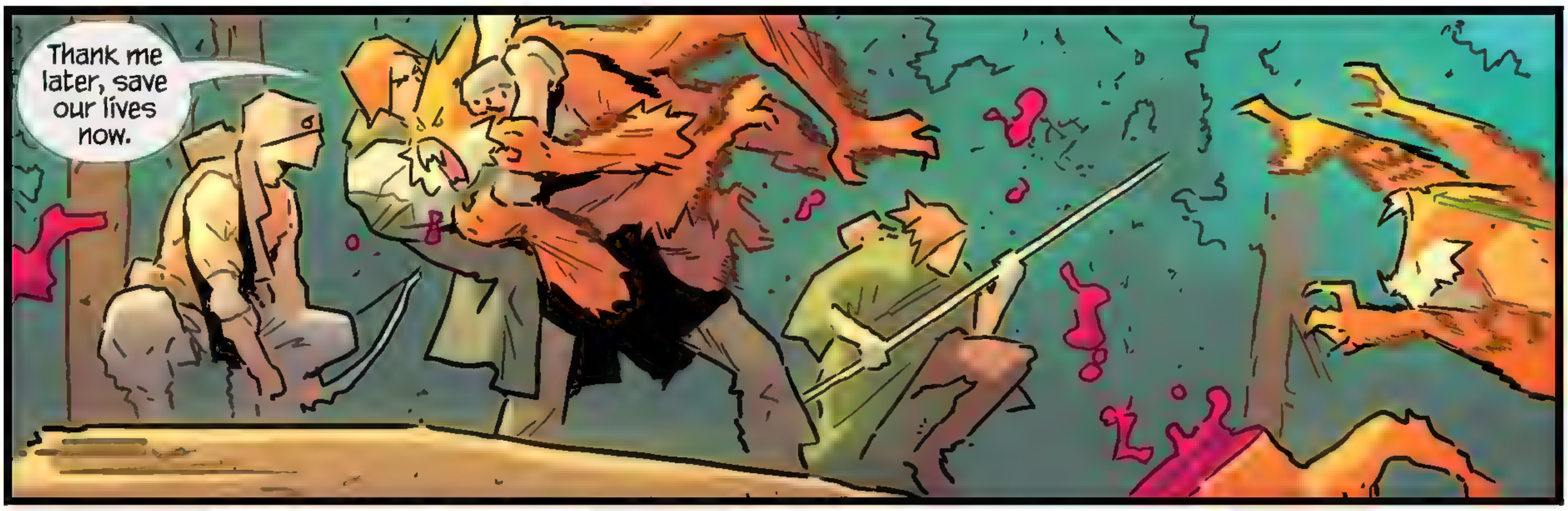
Wonderful.

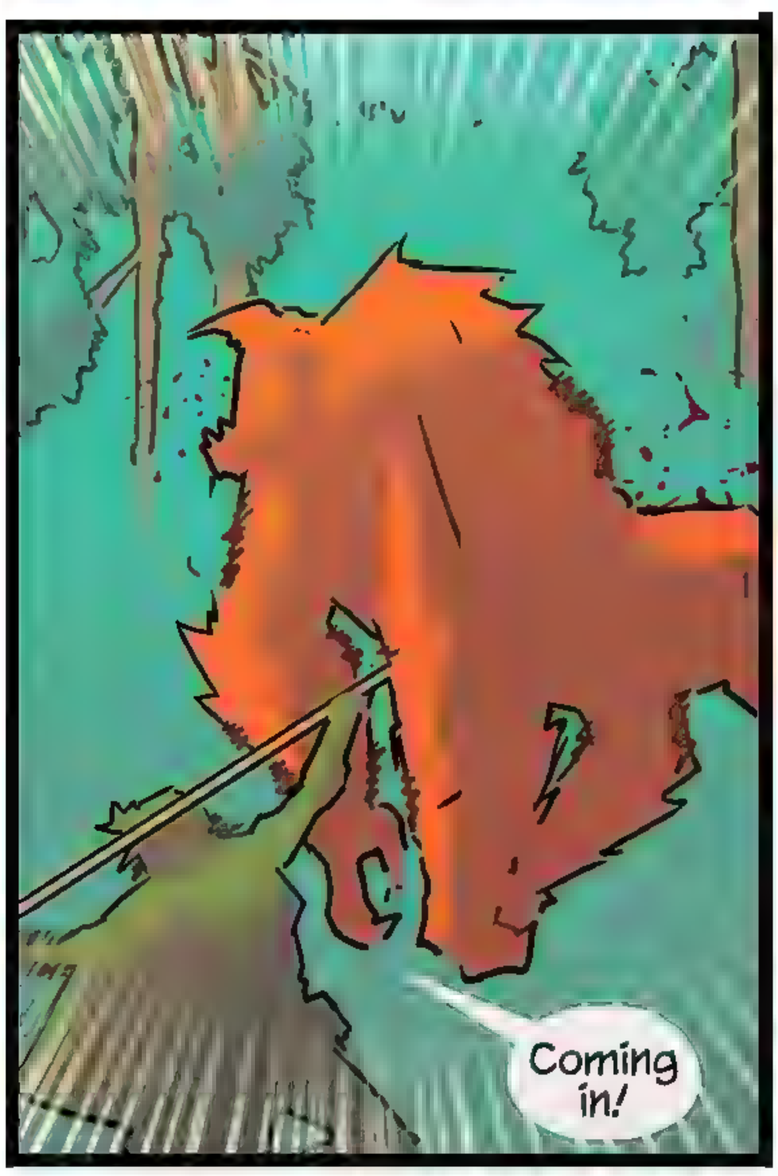
And here we--
GO!

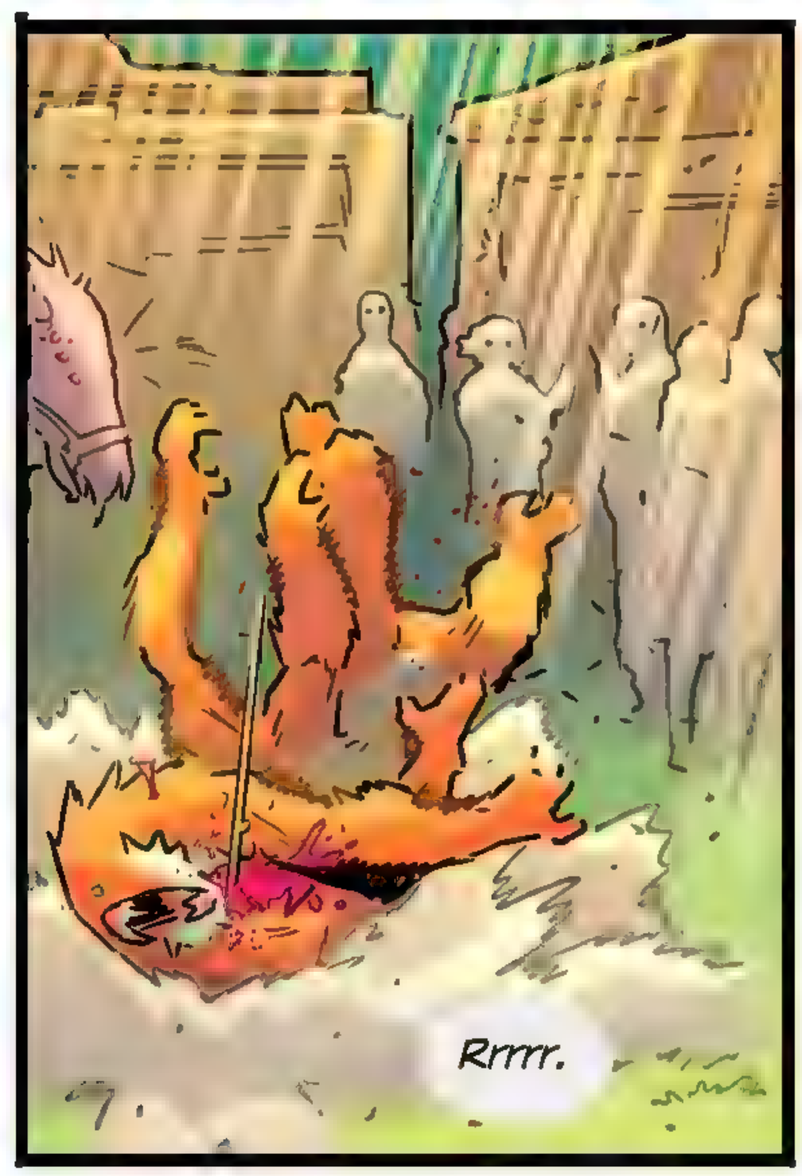
Keep them back!

Damn.

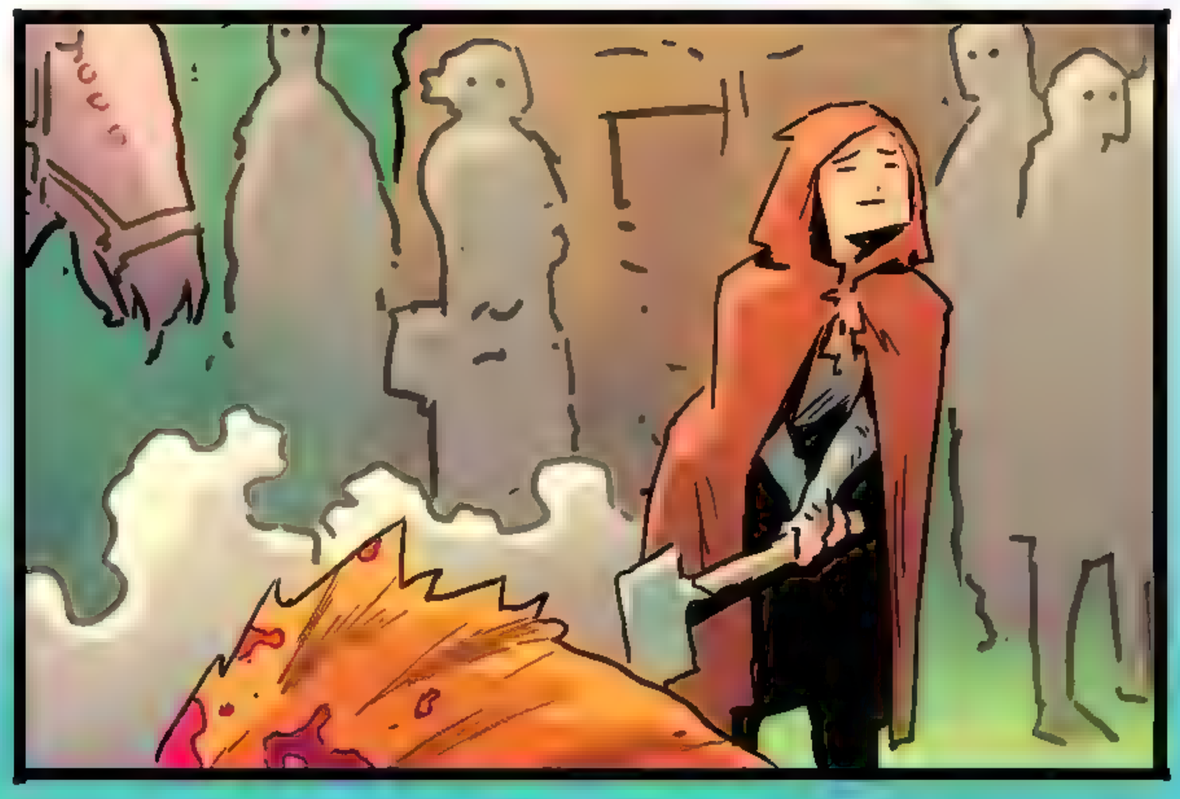



Thank me later, save our lives now.


Coming in!


Rrrrr.

Oh, just die! I've a world to save.

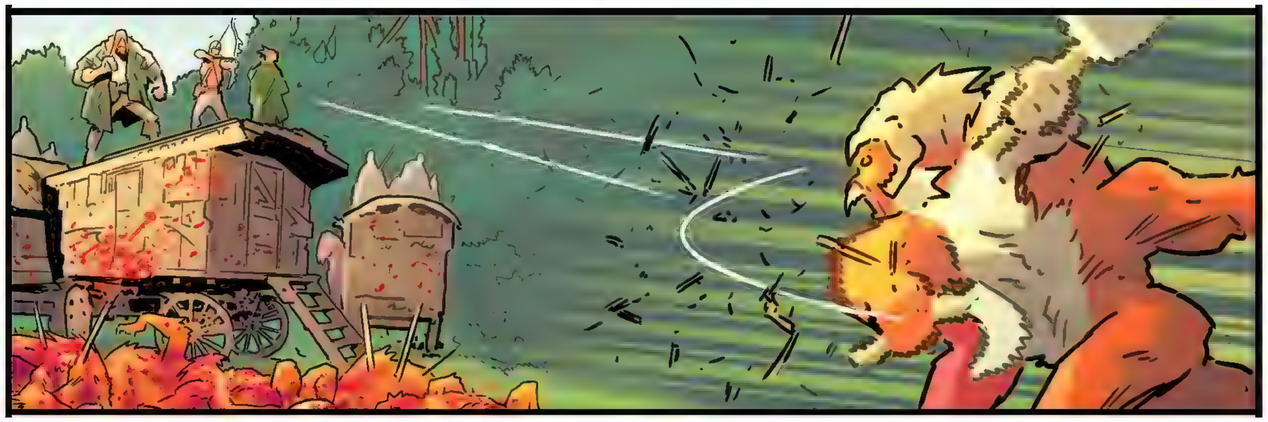


Ah, good news.
That does **not** sound like good news.
It means the **domin** is coming.
That **also** does not sound like good news.

Yes, well...

That...

That is a very big target.



Well, damn.

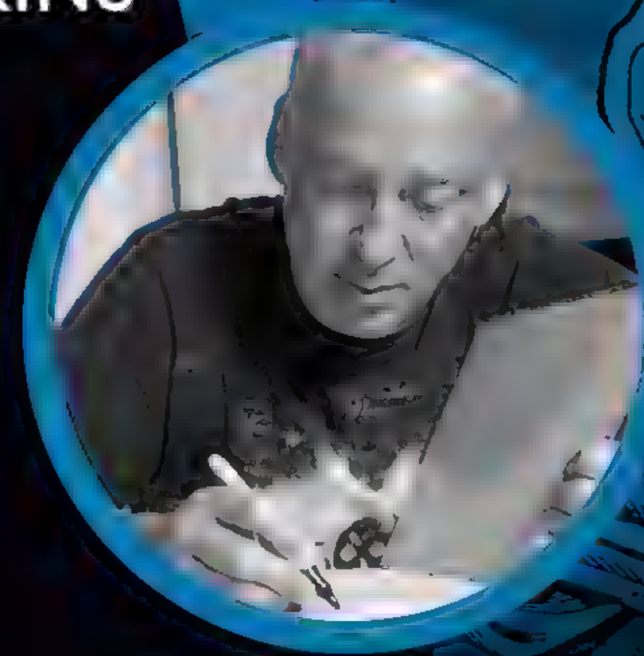
I got this.
TO BE CONTINUED...

AFTERSHOCK
JUSTIN JORDAN • JUAN GEDEON
#4
STRAYER
ON SALE MAY 25TH!

21 QUESTIONS

with Editor-in-Chief
MIKE MARTS

and REPLICA writer
PAUL JENKINS



1

MIKE MARTS: Describe the moment you knew you wanted to be a comic book writer...

PAUL JENKINS: A good friend of the family – a gentleman by the name of Colin Fu – once told me that he always knew I would have a career in comics because every time he came by our house when I was a little kid he'd find me on the floor drawing little comics. My first of all time was "Spider-Man versus Dudley Moore." I'd like to think this shaped my entire career.

2

Who's the mentor who knows they're your mentor, and who's the mentor that doesn't know?

I've tended to blaze my own trail in this – making it work as best as I can for myself. I feel that Karen Berger and my dearly departed editor, Lou Stathis, were mentors in the sense that they believed in me and gave me a chance that I absolutely had not earned as the writer for *Hellblazer*. I don't think Rick Veitch ever realized just how much I was picking his brain while I worked as an editor at Tundra.

3

Movie that should have been a comic first but wasn't...

Independence Day.

4

Comic that should have become a movie but didn't...

Asterix the Gaul. Yes, there is a very old cartoon movie but I grew up with that stuff – it is hilarious.

5

Do you listen to music while writing?

Always. I used to be a musician so I can never listen to bands, or anything with vocals. I listen to a ton of ambient electronic music, a lot of chill-out stuff on the di.fm channel.

6

Best moment of your career that's happened so far...

Every single time someone writes to me and tells me that I had an influence on them, creatively. I like mentoring and teaching, and will often take someone under my wing and encourage them. Every so often someone will write to me and say, "I met you briefly at _____ and you told me to stick with my dream, and it had an impact on me." I am a pretty positive guy, and I love it when people succeed.

7

Best moment of career that hasn't happened yet...

Winning the Premier League as the center forward for Crystal Palace. I am not letting go of that dream.

8

Artist you're dying to work with?

John Cassaday.

9

If you could only co-write for the rest of your career, who would be your partner?

Patton Oswalt.

10

Favorite creation of yours?

Sidekick, no doubt. Every time I work on that set of characters I do it with a big smile on my face. I can reread it and make myself laugh. And there is a ton of crazy stuff that has never been seen. Chris Moreno is a criminally underrated genius.

11

Describe your workplace...

I have a pretty big space. My desk is cluttered and only I know where everything goes. I have a music studio in here as well, so lots of guitars and keyboards and percussion instruments. And I have a video game area down here as well. Hell, if I only had an infinite supply of tea and steak and kidney pies, I would never leave. This is what it looks like...

12

Describe your typical day of writing...

Well, mine may be a bit different than many others – I do a lot more in my professional life than write. I head a new studio just north of Atlanta called META Studios, and I'm often busy in games or film or animation as well as comics. I just completed my first novel, which is coming very soon this year. I teach at Kennesaw State University. So my writing day can often begin late, around 5-6 PM. I will type usually until about 2-3 AM. I have never been much of a sleeper, so usually around 4-5 hours. Just the way I am. Rinse and repeat about 365 days per year.

13

Mike Marts vs. Joe Pruett, steel cage match. Who's your bet on?

The steel cage.

14

World's about to end and you can pick one comic character, one fellow creator and one Hollywood type to pal around with as the "last people on Earth." Go.

Comic book character would be the Green Lantern because I could think of some pretty sick stuff he hasn't thought of yet. Creator would probably be Cully Hamner, who is always clever and interesting, and with whom I have had a ton of great chats over the years – great company. Hollywood type would be my voice actor pal, Yuri Lowenthal – he's not a Hollywood "type" but he lives there so it counts.

15

Last good book you read was...

The Road by Cormac McCarthy.

16 *The title to the comic about you would be called...*

The Adventures of Geographically Stable Serial Killer Man.

17 *Best comic that everyone might not be reading yet but should be...*

Owly. God, I love that book.

18 *Why AfterShock?*

They have the best taste in footwear. Plus, they are truly supportive of the creators they work with and interested in putting out the very best books. I am having a blast here.

19 *Favorite movie?*

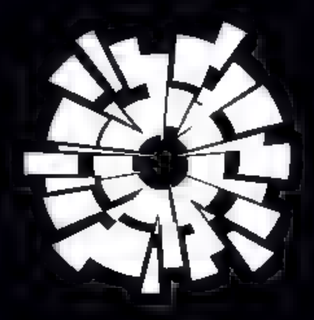
Have to at least list the top five: *Being There*, *JFK*, *This is Spinal Tap*, *Mad Max* and *Braveheart*.

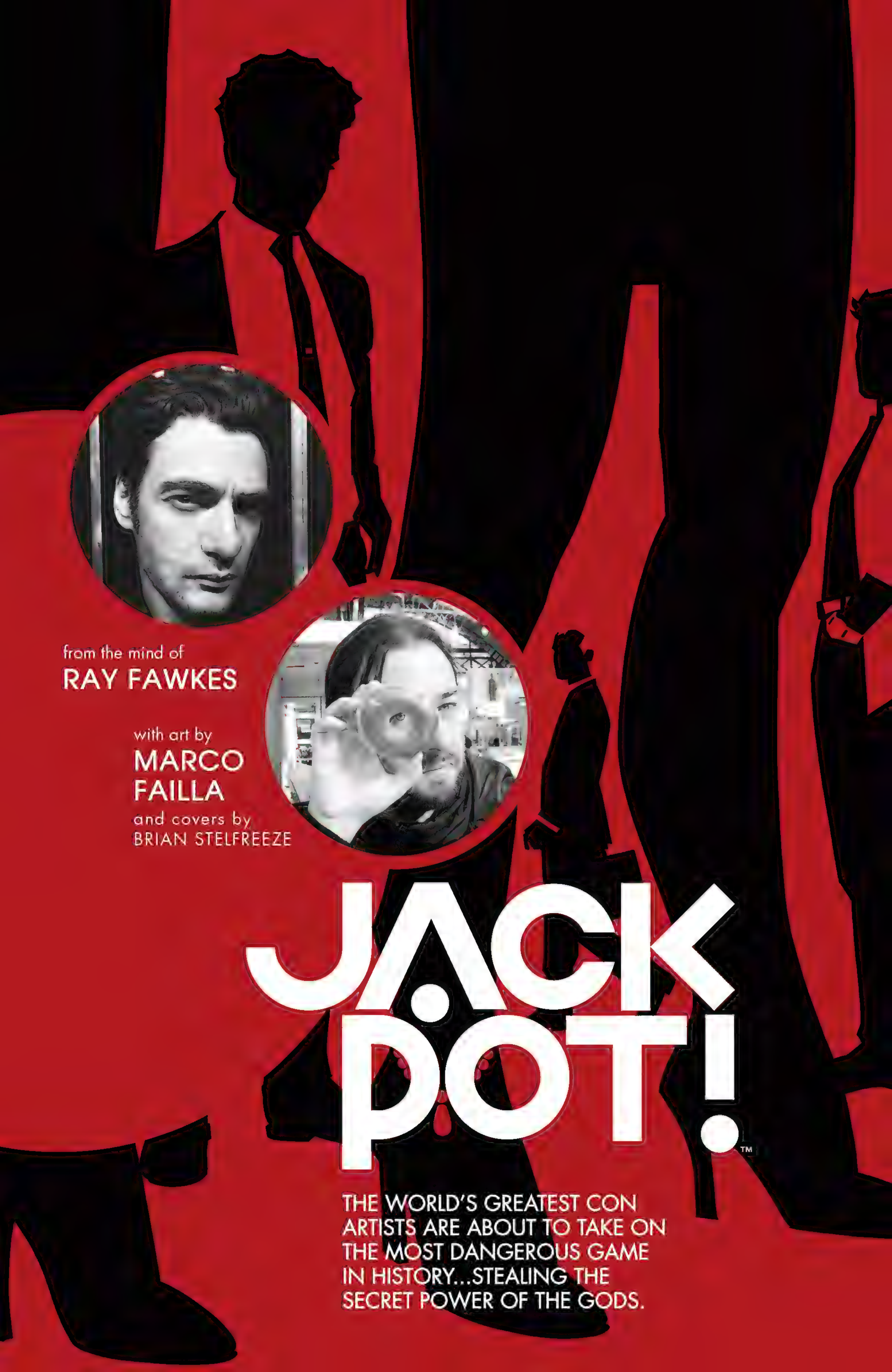
20 *Favorite late night snack?*

Fireball and Coke Zero.

21 *Favorite city?*

Meh. I grew up on a farm. Seattle, maybe.




from the mind of
RAY FAWKES
with art by
MARCO FAILLA
and covers by
BRIAN STELFREEZE
JACK POT!™
THE WORLD'S GREATEST CON ARTISTS ARE ABOUT TO TAKE ON THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME IN HISTORY...STEALING THE SECRET POWER OF THE GODS.

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS THERE IS NO LAW
NOBODY MOVES!
I GUARANTEE SOMEBODY IS ABOUT TO DIE!
"DON'T TELL ME THE ODDS ON THIS ONE..."

TEN MINUTES EARLIER
"...I MEAN, TECHNICALLY, I MIGHT NOT HAVE A CHANCE..."
¡Que Chimba!
...UNLESS I'M TRICKY--RIGHT, EDUARDO?
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF ICARUS, SEÑOR MALAWI?
WASN'T HE THE LORD AND MASTER OF URANUS?
TAM MALAWI
THE POKER FACE
¡MAMÓN!
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE? I KNOW YOUR REPUTATION VERY WELL!
YOU FACE THE HIGH-STAKES PLAYERS ALL AROUND THE WORLD, NO? TAKE THEM FOR EVERYTHING THEY HAVE. BUT YOU WILL NOT DEFEAT ME! I HAVE YOU.
AND YOUR STAKES ARE HIGHEST. YOU SIT ON TOP OF THE BIGGEST, MEANEST CARTEL IN THE WORLD, LIKE A TURD ON A PILE OF GOLD.
YOU'RE INSANELY RICH. CHRIST, THERE'S FOUR MILLION ON THE TABLE RIGHT HERE. YOU MUST HAVE SOME BRAINS...

"...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I NEED TO *RESPECT* YOU."

UGH, EDUARDO, GOLD TRIM?

SOME PEOPLE *DESERVE* TO BE ROBBED.

FELICIA HYDE
THE COLD READER

CTM. THE INTEL WAS GOOD?

MY INTEL IS *ALWAYS* GOOD. THE SAFE IS HERE.

JANUARY NINTH, '63. HIS MOTHER'S *BIRTHDAY.*

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

HE'S *STREET CLEVER,* BUT HE'S NOT--LOOK, I'LL GIVE YOU FIFTY PERCENT OF MY TAKE IF IT ISN'T THE STRAIGHT ORDER. YOU GIVE ME FIFTY PERCENT OF YOURS IF IT IS.

I'M NOT BETTING AGAINST YOU.

ONE LEFT, NINE RIGHT, FORTY-THREE LEFT...

CLICK

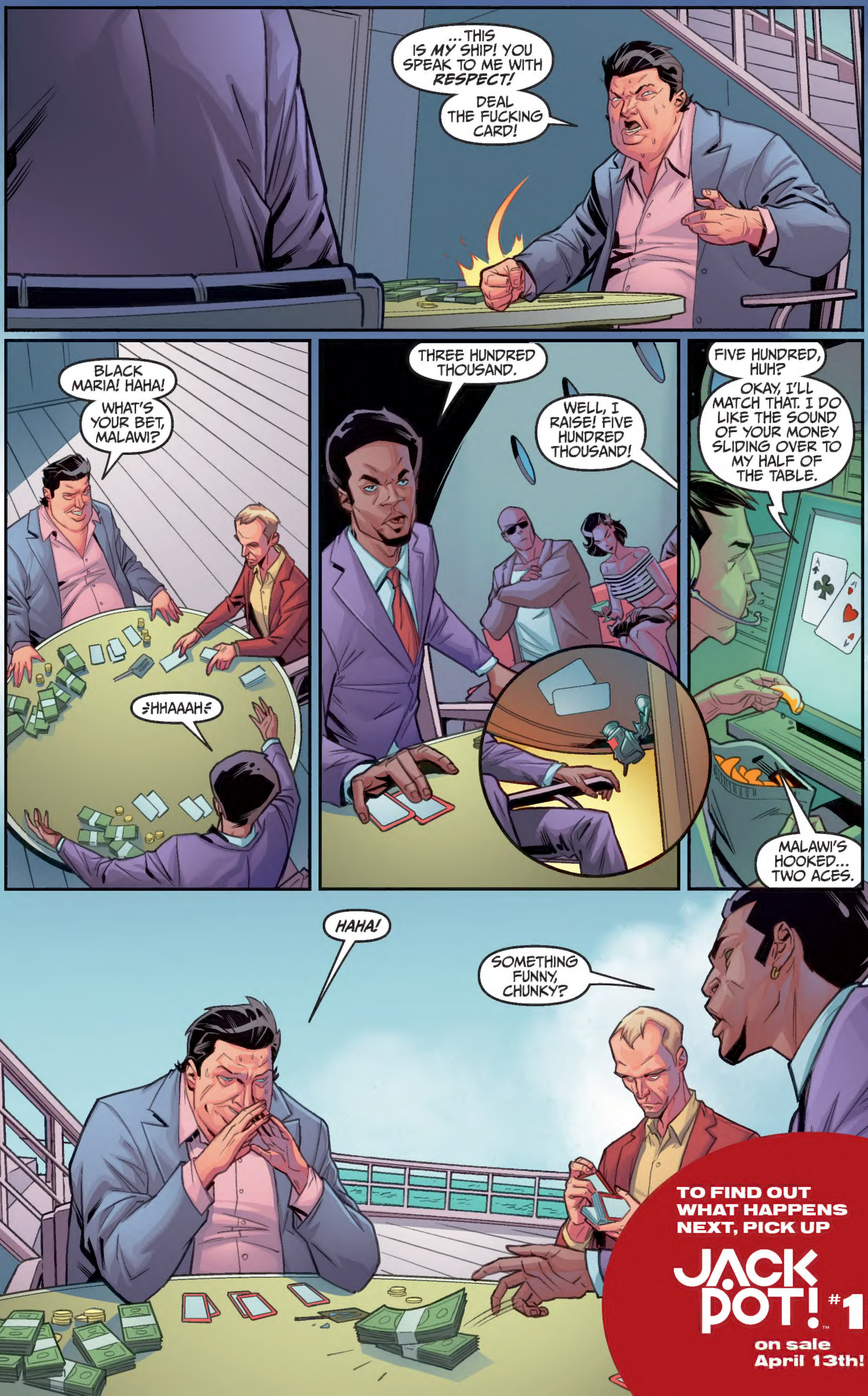
NEVER BET AGAINST ME.

WHAT'S "CEE TEE EM"?

"CHUCKLING TO MYSELF".
IT WAS FUNNY, BUT IT WASN'T "LAUGH OUT LOUD" FUNNY.

HEY, I BET THE SEA AROUND HERE IS CHOCK-FULL OF SQUIDS.
Y'ALL EVER HEARD OF HOKUSAI?

"ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE..."


...THIS IS MY SHIP! YOU SPEAK TO ME WITH RESPECT!
DEAL THE FUCKING CARD!
BLACK MARIA! HAHA!
WHAT'S YOUR BET, MALAWI?
HHAAAAH
THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND.
WELL, I RAISE! FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND!
FIVE HUNDRED, HUH?
OKAY, I'LL MATCH THAT. I DO LIKE THE SOUND OF YOUR MONEY SLIDING OVER TO MY HALF OF THE TABLE.
MALAWI'S HOOKED... TWO ACES.
HAHA!
SOMETHING FUNNY, CHUNKY?
TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, PICK UP
JACKPOT! #1
on sale April 13th!

ABOUT THE CREATORS OF

STRAYER™

JUSTIN JORDAN writer

@Justin_Jordan

Justin Jordan broke into comics with *The Strange Talent of Luther Strode* with Tradd Moore at Image. Since then, he's written two more *Strode* series for Image, as well as *Dead Body Road* with Matteo Scalera and *Spread* with Kyle Strahm. He's recently written the creator-owned series *Deep State* and *John Flood* for BOOM! He rebooted *Shadowman* for Valiant and *Team 7* for DC's New 52. His other works have included *The Adventures of Superman, Deathstroke, Superboy* and, most recently, a two-year run on *Green Lantern: New Guardians*. He lives in very rural Pennsylvania with a cat named Tom Waits. Who is a girl. And adorable.

JUAN GEDEON artist

@juan_gedeon

Juan Gedeon was born in Argentina in 1987. He started doing storyboards, illustrations and animatics at age 18. After that, he did countless comic pitches for independent writers that never got picked up. Juan lived in Mexico for four years where he produced storyboards and layouts for an animated movie. After chomping at the bit for almost ten years, he drew *Ghost Racers* for Marvel Comics in 2015.

TAMRA BONVILLAIN colorist

@TBonvillain

Tamra Bonvillain graduated from the Joe Kubert School in 2009. For the next four years, she worked at Spiderwebart for Greg Hildbrandt and Jean Scrocco doing design work, retouching paintings, cleaning/scanning drawings, and other various tasks. While there she began coloring in her off hours, eventually moving back near her hometown to pursue coloring full time. She is currently coloring *Strayer, Rat Queens, Wayward, Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, John Flood,* and more.

RACHEL DEERING letterer

@racheldeering

Rachel Deering is an Eisner and Harvey award-nominated writer, editor, and letterer. She has worked in some capacity for nearly every publisher in the industry, but is perhaps best known for her efforts on the massive horror anthology, *In the Dark* and her writing in *Creepy*. She enjoys collecting arcade cabinets, monster masks, and vinyl records in her spare time.

SON OF ULTRON